



The Physician's BOOKSHELF

CALIFORNIA MEDICINE does not review all books sent to it by the publishers. A list of new books received is carried on page 66 of the Advertising Section.

CERVICAL SPONDYLOSIS—And Other Disorders of the Cervical Spine—Edited by Lord Brain, D.M., LL.D., D.C.L., D.Sc., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., F.R.S., F.F.R., Consulting Neurologist to the London Hospital and Consulting Physician to the Maida Vale Hospital, and Marcia Wilkinson, D.M., F.R.C.P., Consultant Neurologist, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital and the Hackney and Queen Elizabeth Group of Hospitals; Director, Regional Neurological Unit, Eastern Hospital, Hackney, E.9. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. (19105), 1967. 232 pages, \$10.00.

The reviewer looked forward to this book with a great deal of anticipation. He must admit to a degree of disappointment. Cervical spondylosis is a common and clinically troublesome problem. Despite this, it remains a poorly recognized and understood one. It often mimics other disease, may go unrecognized or misdiagnosed and be poorly or improperly treated. One would hope that this book would help correct this situation by clarifying the clinical picture, the examination of the patient and his treatment. It does this but not to the degree or with the clarity that is needed.

The book contains nine chapters, six by the editors, Brain and Wilkinson, and three by other contributors. The chapter on history and the ones on pathology and radiology are good. The latter is especially noteworthy, being useful and well done with a good discussion of how to evaluate the x-ray changes of cervical spondylosis. The chapter on anatomy is complete—in fact, more so than most readers will desire. It is especially useful for reference.

The clinical chapters are the disappointment. The ones on symptomatology and diagnosis fail to come through with a clear clinical picture except in the discussion on myelopathy, which is well done. Little is said about several aspects of cervical spondylosis: its mimicry of coronary artery disease and how to differentiate the two (no small task at times); its production of the posterior cervical sympathetic syndrome which may give vague and yet clinically troublesome symptoms. The examination of the patient is barely mentioned and yet much that is clinically useful and little appreciated could be said about this. The chapter on medical treatment is standard but barely mentions vertical cervical traction, which is often the most rewarding way of treating these patients in addition to being a helpful technique in making the diagnosis. Surgical treatment is admittedly a difficult problem, with the approach and choice of procedures open to honest debate. The discussion of this brings in the current thinking regarding surgical approaches and therapy. It brings out well the fact that cervical spondylosis is a difficult problem to help surgically.

Much of the pertinent literature is reviewed or referred to but the clinical chapters are inbred and have limited reference to the work of other authors. The interesting and useful monograph by David Davis, "Radicular Syndromes—With Emphasis on Chest Pain Simulating Coro-

nary Disease," is not mentioned. Other articles adding to the clinical picture are not mentioned.

Unfortunately, nothing is said about the ways one can help prevent the development of significant cervical myelopathy by anticipating the problem in high-risk patients. An entire chapter could be built around this subject.

In summary, the book has excellent parts but it will not give the clinician help and guidance to the degree that it could or should and it will be a disappointment to those who are familiar with the field. Nonetheless, it makes a real contribution to this problem and should be selectively read by those not well acquainted with cervical spondylosis.

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THE PEDIATRIC PATIENT 1967—Coordinating Editor Sarah R. Gustafson, Ph.D., Director, Department of Medical Literature, Hoffman-La Roche Inc., Nutley, N. J.; and Consulting Editor David Baird Coursin, M.D., F.A.A.P., Director of Research, Research Institute, St. Joseph's Hospital, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. J. B. Lippincott Company, East Washington Square, Pa. (19105), 1967. 272 pages, 92 figures, \$7.00.

This is the fifth annual edition of this publication which is sponsored by the Hoffman-La Roche Company. A copy of this book is provided free to almost every pediatrician by Hoffman-La Roche and the book is usually available to other physicians on request. The editors attempt to give a fairly comprehensive review of one or two subjects and a much briefer report on a dozen or so other topics of current interest. The references are quite up to date, and in addition to standard medical journals, they include reports given at recent medical meetings and information which has appeared in the pages of *Medical World News* and several of the medical newspapers.

This year's volume contains six chapters. The three topics selected for a review in depth are Computers in Clinical Medicine, Pediatric Cardiology and Childhood Speech and Reading Disorders. The remaining chapters deal with selected topics in Dermatology, "New Pathogens" and "Miscellany in Brief." The last chapter is miscellany indeed dealing with such diverse topics as Interferon—A Decade of Progress, Intensive Care Equipment for Newborns, Compulsory Screening for PKU and many other topics.

These are apparently the reports, papers and talks which appeared to be of greater interest to the editors.

This volume is somewhat reminiscent of the *Year Book of Pediatrics* but it is not as comprehensive as the latter and it does not contain the editor's incisive and critical comments on the papers being reported. The book is certainly well worth leafing through to sample a wide variety of material, and having done that, I am sure that many readers may wish to go back and give their careful attention to several areas of the book which might capture their interest.

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